



Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 29 NO 2

SUMMER 2015

Service Award presented during the 71st Annual Meeting



(L to R) Supervisor Matt Herring and Kenny Brautigam

Supervisor Matt Herring presented a plaque to a local business that dedicated many hours to the District. Brautigam Implement Co here in Union agreed many years ago to manage the straw mulcher rental for the District. This job duty entailed coordinating the rental schedule, maintenance and repair of the straw mulcher. They also instructed the landowner how to set up and operate the equipment safely. Through

the years, the District was able to obtain additional equipment – a root plow, ATV sprayer and No-Till Drills. Brautigam Implement again was very willing to take on the additional work load that was associated with these equipment pieces. Providing the equipment for agricultural and urban use at a minimal charge is one way to give back to the community and help protect our natural resources.

The Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District wanted to show our appreciation to Brautigam Implement for providing a valuable service to landowners on behalf of the District. *Thank you very much!*

**SECTION
OMITTED**

Great Plains 7' No-Till Drills are located at:
Drill #1 Harrawood Equipment Co in Leslie
573-259-4634
Drill #2 Union Rental in Union
636-583-2857



Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District Holds Annual Awards Banquet

The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District celebrated its 71st anniversary with a meeting at the Union Knights of Columbus Hall on March 19, 2015.

Approximately 100 cooperators and poster contest winners attended the event.

Supervisor Matt Herring led the pledge and gave the invocation.

The master of ceremony for the evening was Supervisor Dan Brunjes. A catered dinner was served.

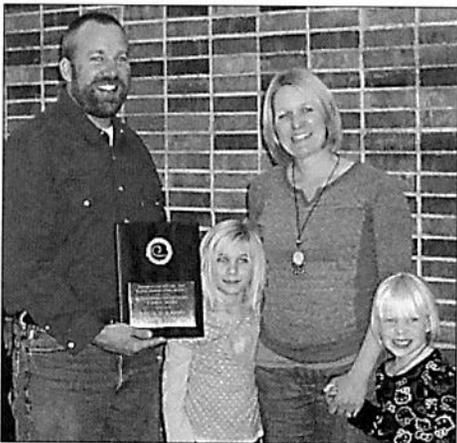
Ryan Diener, Quail Forever gave a presentation on pollinators.

Supervisor Matt Herring presented a Service Award to Brautigam Implement Co, Union for the many years of service to the District.

Supervisor Bernard Laune and Supervisor John Helling presented the 15 county poster contest winners with certificates, cash prize and backpack. The poster winners were selected from a total of 280 posters from 7 participating schools. Students from grades four through eight were eligible.

Outstanding Farmer awards were presented to the three area award winners of the district by Supervisors Dan Brunjes and Carl Danz.

Attendance prizes were donated by local businesses.



Area I Outstanding Farmer

Legacy Farms –
Richard & Kariann Dryer
and daughters Grace &
Annalise of Robertsville.

Congratulations to the Outstanding Farmer Winners!



Area II Outstanding Farmer

John A. & Marie Busch of
Washington,
Supervisor Carl Danz, center.



Area IV Outstanding Farmer

Craig & Sheila Kloppe of New
Haven

Poster Contest Winners

Grade 4



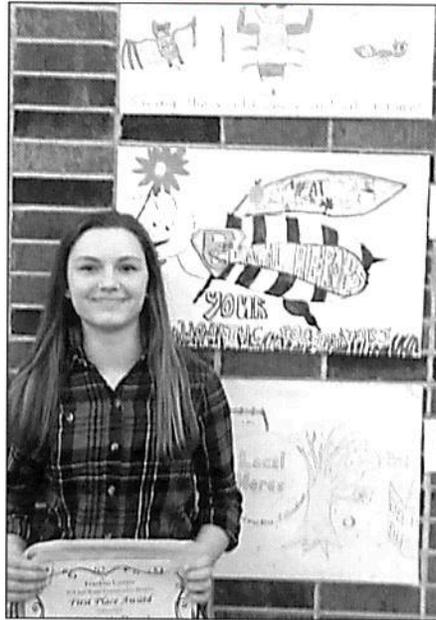
From left: Emily Bruckerhoff, Clearview Elementary, first in county; Joshua Ley, St. John Gildehaus, second in county; Weston Meyer, Campbellton Elementary, third in county.

Grade 5



From left: Cody Vondera, St. John Gildehaus, first in county; Ava Ploch, St. John Gildehaus, second in county; Emma Roellig, St. Gertrude, third in county.

Grade 8



Elizabeth Busch, St. John Gildehaus, first in county; not pictured - Grace Gettemeier, St. Bridget of Kildare, second in county; Lynnae Grus, St. Clare, third in county.

Grade 6



From left: Landon Kleekamp, St. Gertrude, first in county; Elizabeth Simily, St. John Gildehaus, second in county; Hollie Apprill, St. Gertrude, third in county.

Grade 7



From left: Caroline Clarkson, St. John Gildehaus, first in county; David Schafler, St. John Gildehaus, third in county; not pictured - Ashley Wallen, St. Clare, second in county.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Daniel Brunjes, Chairman
 Bernard Laune, Vice Chairman
 Carl Danz, Treasurer
 Matthew Herring, Secretary
 John Helling, Member

1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084
636-583-2303 • 855-535-5203

The Franklin County Conservation District was organized in 1944 with a primary objective to solve soil and water conservation problems. The District, upon request, aids in planning and applying appropriate land use and conservation treatment measures.

OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

Lori Nowak, District Clerk, FCSWCD
 Stephen Sparks, District Technician, FCSWCD

Renee Cook, District Conservationist, NRCS
 Rhonda Davault, Lead Resource Conservationist, NRCS
 Kervin Bryant, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
 Teresa Morris, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
 Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS

Lia Heppermann, Private Land Conservationist, MDC
 Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

DISCOVER THE COVER

Biodiversity increases the success of most agricultural systems.

Biodiversity helps to prevent disease and pest problems associated with monocultures. Using cover crops and increasing diversity within crop rotations improves soil health and soil function, reduces costs, and increases profitability. Diversity above ground improves diversity below ground, which helps create healthy productive soils.



Cover Crops

Cover Crops can be an integral part of a cropping system. Cover crops can be managed to improve soil health, as they help to develop an environment that sustains and nourishes plants, soil microbes and beneficial insects.

Cover crops are typically planted in late summer or fall around harvest and before spring planting of the following year's crops. Examples of cover crops include rye, wheat, oats, clovers and other legumes, turnips, radishes, and triticale. Planting several cover crop species together in a mixture can increase their impact on soil health. Each cover crop provides its own set of benefits, so it's important to choose the right cover crop mixture to meet management goals.

Cover Crop Benefits

Restoring Soil Health – Cover crops help increase organic matter in the soil and improve overall soil health by adding living roots to the soil during more months of the year. Cover crops can improve water infiltration into the soil. Deep-rooted crops like forage radishes create natural water passages. Legume cover crops serve as natural fertilizers while grasses scavenge nutrients that are often lost after harvest or during winter.

Natural Resource Protection – Along with crop residue above ground, cover crops protect the soil against erosive heavy rains and strong winds. Cover crops trap excess nitrogen, keeping it from leaching into groundwater or running off into surface water – releasing it later to feed growing crops.

Livestock Feed – Cover crops can provide livestock producers with additional grazing or haying opportunities.

Wildlife Habitat – Cover crops provide winter food and cover for birds and other wildlife. During the growing season, they can provide food for pollinators.

Soil Health Management Systems

Implementing Soil Health Management Systems can lead to increased organic matter, more soil organisms, reduced soil compaction and improved nutrient storage and cycling. As an added bonus, fully functioning, healthy soils absorb and retain more water, making them less susceptible to runoff and erosion. This means more water will be available for crops when they need it. Soil Health Management Systems allow farmers to enjoy profits because they spend less on fuel and energy while benefiting from the higher crop yields resulting from improved soil conditions.

Contact your local NRCS office to learn more about Soil Health Management Systems and the technical and financial assistance available to help “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil.”

Practices Installed In Franklin County 50 Year Old Waterway and Dry Hole

By Stephen Sparks

In fall of 2014 we had a land owner that erosion concern at the end of his existing waterway. The waterway was 50+ years old and had an excellent stand of sod that transported 30 acres of water from the existing terraces to an old dry hole structure that had no pipe outlet. The structure was a little ways into an area that was grown up in brush and trees. The gully erosion had cut through the structure and was making its way up the waterway.

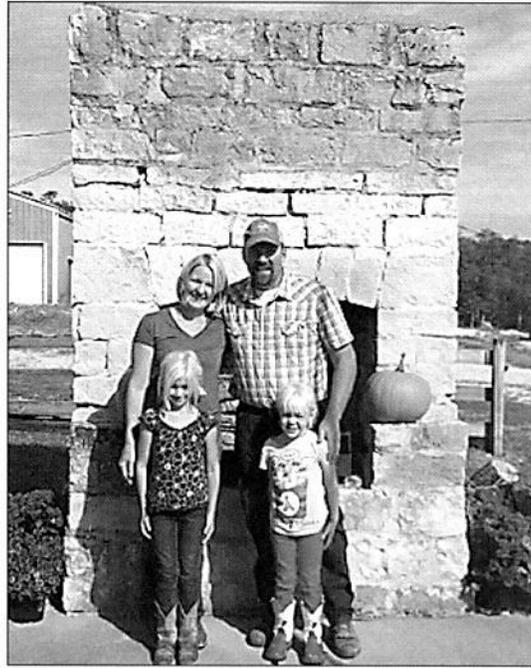
The gully was 8' wide at the top with a 3' wide bottom that was 7' deep, with an average of 10 tons of soil loss a year. Looking back towards the waterway you could see that the waterway capture so much settlement over the 50 years that it was higher than the field.

To help resolve the issue the waterway was reconstructed and a new dry hole structure was built with a 22" steel inlet pipe to provide a stable outlet for the waterway. With these practices the landowner hopes to protect the site from further soil loss.



**SECTION
OMITTED**

Area I - LEGACY FARMS



Our Area I Outstanding Farmer award goes to Legacy Farms in Robertsville. Richard and Kariann Dryer own approximately 250 acres in the Calvey Creek Valley. About $\frac{1}{2}$ of the acres are pasture and the remaining is woodland and cropland.

In 1915, Richard's great, great grandfather purchased this piece of land for his son, Otto to raise his family. Almost 30 years later Wilfred, Otto's son married the original land owners, the Mitchell's, great granddaughter, Laura. With this marriage, the family farm now dates back to 1881 when the Mitchell's purchased the 200 acre farm. In 2004, Richard and Kariann took over the family farm operations from Richard's dad, Bruce to carry on the family work ethic and farm pride. On top of the farm's highest hill, still stands the chimney of the original home where Richard's grandfather Wilfred was born. The farm has been a host for several neighborhood schools for field trips during the farms dairy operation days.

Currently, the farm is home to Richard, Kariann and their two daughters Grace and Annalise. Cattle, horses, goats, sheep, hogs, chickens, soybeans, and corn are all raised on the farm. The Dryers have participated in State cost-share by installing a grazing system (that includes fencing, watering facilities, pipeline/tanks) and terraces. The farm is also enrolled in CRP.

Keep up the good conservation work and congratulations to Legacy Farms!

